



Chapter XXII

MEMORY CARD



OMBRE
DE LOUP.



OMBRE DE LOUP.
REMEMBER.



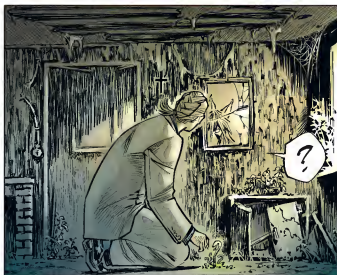
THAT DAY...

...NEAR THE
OLD PLANT.



YOU GOT A GLIMPSE
OF OUR WILL TO LIVE.

THAT IS WHEN YOU
DECIDED TO BECOME
ONE OF US.



?



IS THAT
ME?



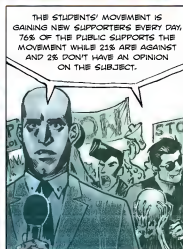
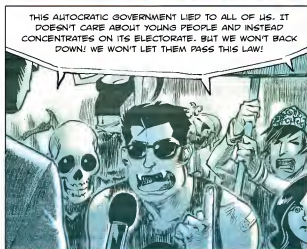
I'M A
MONSTER...

IT'S YOUR
NATURE, OMBRE.
TO BE A WOLF
AMONG MEN.

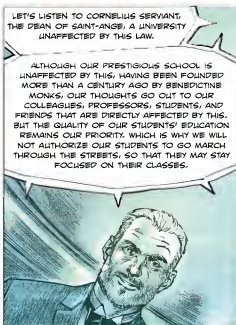
YOU FOUND YOUR REAL
FAMILY IN US.

DON'T
LISTEN TO THIS
HARDY!





T.N. LOOKS LIKE THE AUTHOR CAN'T DO MATH...





THESE IMAGES WERE
FILMED LESS THAN
30MIN AGO.

Artistide Bryan
plastic a

MY ART EXPRESSES
ITSELF IN THE
REPRESENTATION OF OUR
CONSUMERIST SOCIETY, IN
ALL OF ITS GIGANTISM AND
CHILDISHNESS.

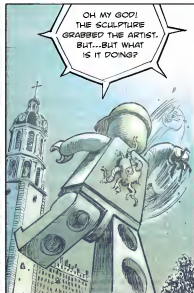


BUT! WHAT...
WATCH OUT!

Artistide Bryan
plastic artist

EH;
WHAT?

ghanistan; the bombing that took pla



OH MY GOD!
THE SCULPTURE
GRABBED THE ARTIST.
BUT...BUT WHAT
IS IT DOING?

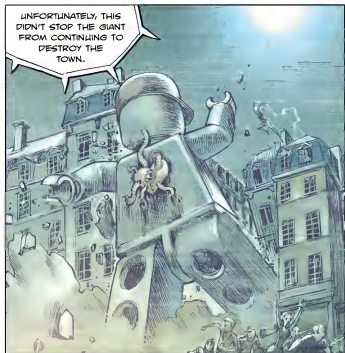


HOW HORRIBLE! HE
JUST GOT THROWN
AGAINST THE HOLY
BELL!

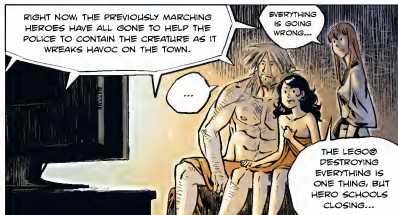
CAMERA 2,
ZOOM IN ON THE
BUILDING AND
THE SMASHED
BODY...



WAIT! IT'S AMAZING!
THE ARTIST DIDN'T
REDECORATE THE WALLS
WITH ITS OULTS! HE WAS
SAVED IN EXTREMIS BY
YOUNG MANIFESTING
HEROES!



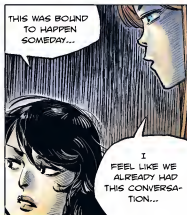
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS
DIDN'T STOP THE GIANT
FROM CONTINUING TO
DESTROY THE
TOWN.



RIGHT NOW, THE PREVIOUSLY MARCHING
HEROES HAVE ALL GONE TO HELP THE
POLICE TO CONTAIN THE CREATURE AS IT
WREAKS HAVOC ON THE TOWN.

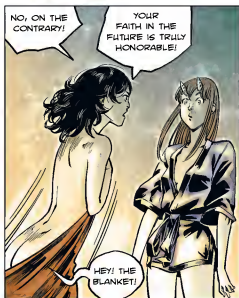
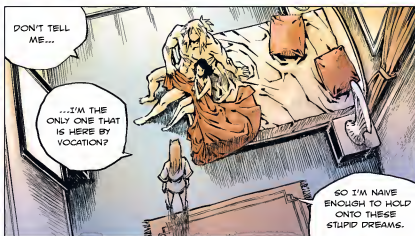
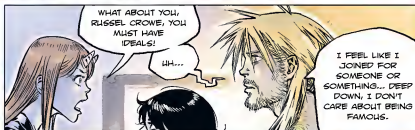
EVERYTHING
IS GOING
WRONG...

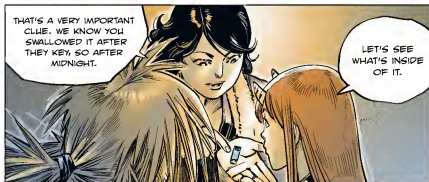
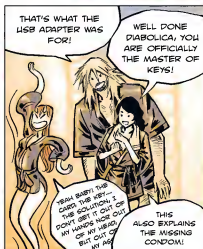
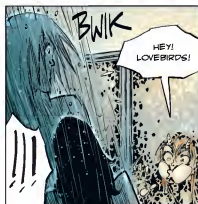
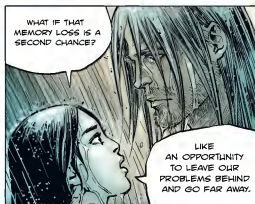
THE LEGO®
DESTROYING
EVERYTHING IS
ONE THING, BUT
HERO SCHOOLS
CLOSING...

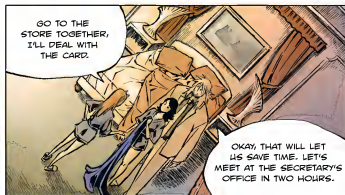
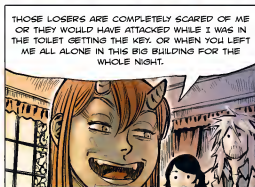
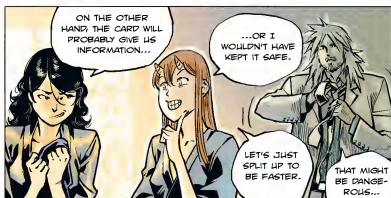
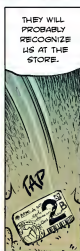
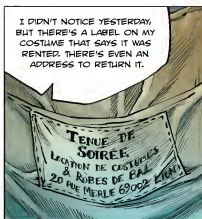
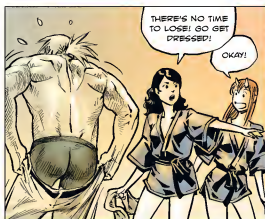


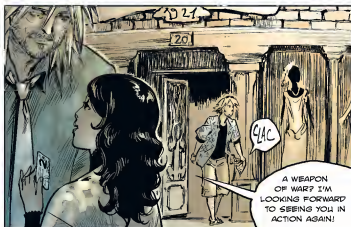
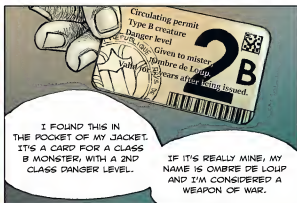
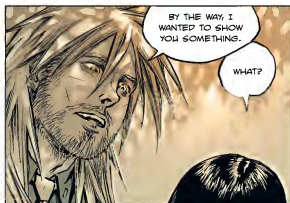
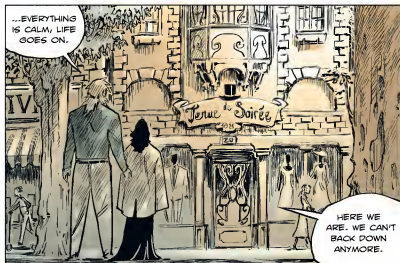
THIS WAS BOUND
TO HAPPEN
SOMEDAY...

I
FEEL LIKE WE
ALREADY HAD
THIS CONVERSA-
TION...



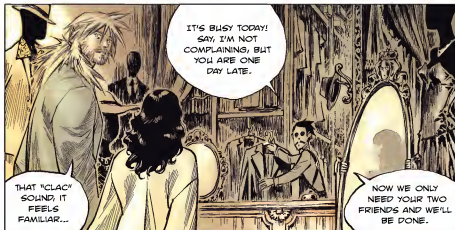








DID YOU
HEAR THAT WEIRD
NOISE IN FRONT
OF THE STORE?



THAT "CLAC"
SOUND; IT
FEELS
FAMILIAR...

IT'S BUSY TODAY!
SAY, I'M NOT
COMPLAINING, BUT
YOU ARE ONE
DAY LATE.

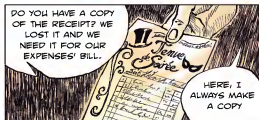
NOW WE ONLY
NEED YOUR TWO
FRIENDS AND WE'LL
BE DONE.



TWO?



YES,
A CHUBBY ONE
WITH GLASSES
AND A SKINNY
ONE WITH A
BIG MOUTH.



DO YOU HAVE A COPY
OF THE RECEIPT? WE
LOST IT AND WE
NEED IT FOR OUR
EXPENSES' BILL.

HERE, I
ALWAYS MAKE
A COPY



WHO PAID
FOR THE
GUARANTEE?

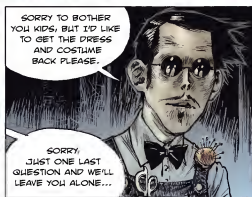
YOU DON'T
REMEMBER?
YOU MADE
THE CHECK.

SOUNDS LIKE
YOU HAD QUITE
AN EVENING.



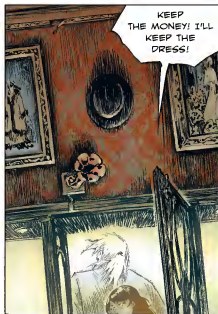
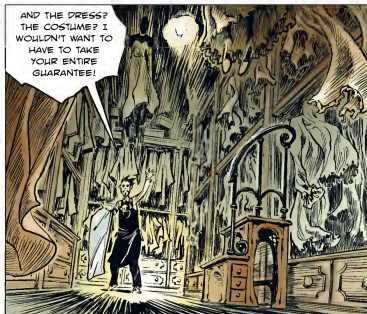
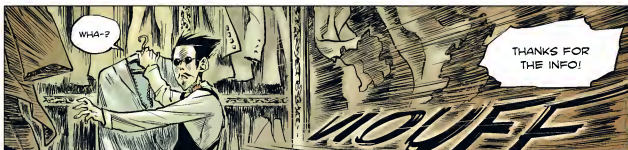
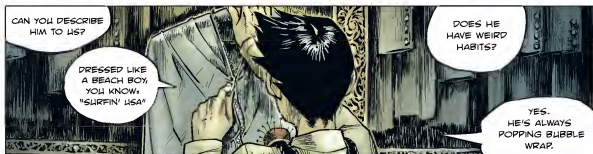
DAMN! SO MY NAME
IS KIONG MAO! IT
MEANS "LITTLE PANDA"
IN CHINESE!

I LIKE IT!
I'LL CARVE
"OMBRE LOVES
LITTLE PANDA" AS
SOON AS I SEE
AN OLD OAK.

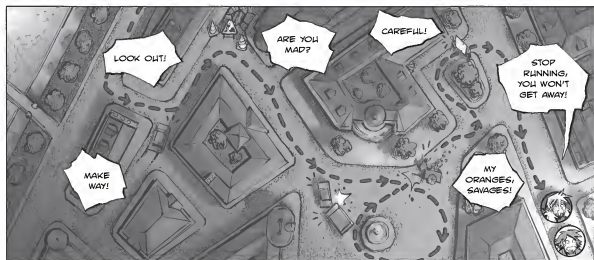


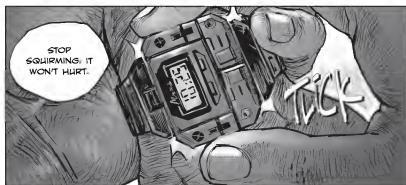
SORRY TO BOTHER
YOU KIDS, BUT I'D LIKE
TO GET THE DRESS
AND COSTUME
BACK PLEASE.

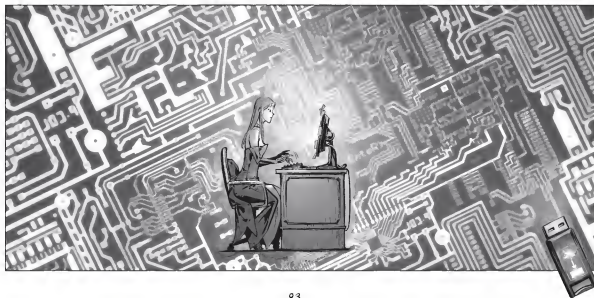
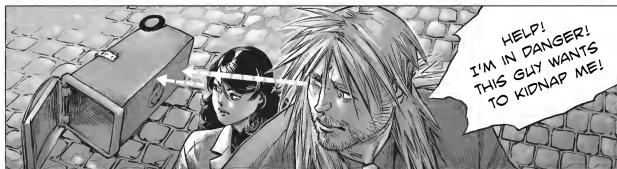
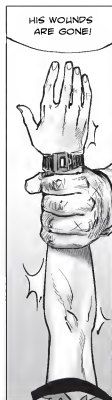
SORRY,
JUST ONE LAST
QUESTION AND WE'LL
LEAVE YOU ALONE...









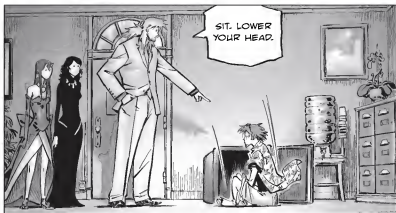




I'M SADDENED BY YOUR BEHAVIOR!
HARSH METHODS AND TORTURE
ARE BARBARIC!



SIT. LOWER
YOUR HEAD.



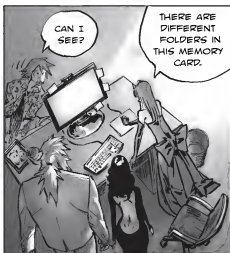
SO!



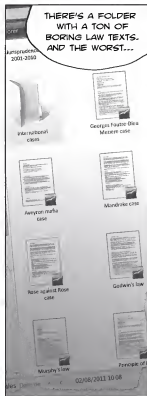
I
HAVE THINGS
TO SHOW YOU
AS WELL!

CAN I
SEE?

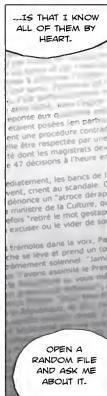
THERE ARE
DIFFERENT
FOLDERS IN
THIS MEMORY
CARD.



THERE'S A FOLDER
WITH A TON OF
BORING LAW TEXTS.
AND THE WORST...



...IS THAT I KNOW
ALL OF THEM BY
HEART.



OPEN A
RANDOM FILE
AND ASK ME
ABOUT IT.

GODWIN'S
LAW.

THIS LAW IS BASED ON
THE FACT THAT, STUCK IN
A LONG DISCUSSION, THE
TWO SPEAKERS WILL END UP
REPLACING THEIR ARGUMENTS
BY EXTREME ANALOGIES.
THE MOST COMMON EXAMPLE
CONSISTS IN COMPARING THE
OPONENT'S ARGUMENTATION TO
A NAZI OPINION OR DIRECTLY
CALLING YOUR OPPONENT A
NAZI OR A FASCIST. IF THE
SUBJECT OF THE DISCUSSION
WAS FAR FROM AN PSYCHOLOGICAL
DEBATE, SUCH A COMPARISON
IS CONSIDERED A SIGN OF
FAILURE. IT IS THEN CONSIDERED
THAT THE DEBATE HAS ENDED
AS NOTHING COHERENT WOULD
GET OUT OF IT ANYMORE. IT
IS SAID THEY REACHED THE
"GODWIN'S POINT" OF THE
DISCUSSION.



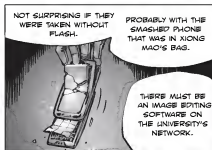
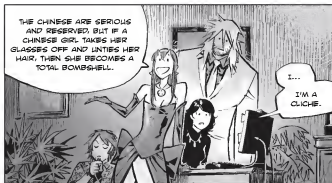
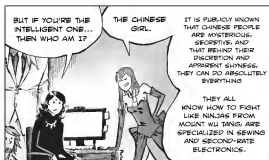
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT...

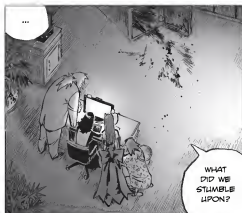
THEN YOU
ARE...



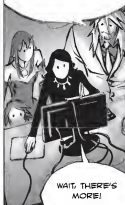
OUT
OF THE
THREE OF US,
YOU'RE THE
INTELLIGENT
ONE?

LOOKS
LIKE IT...





THIS STORY KEEPS GETTING CRAZIER! THE DEANS OF TWO RIVAL SCHOOLS MEETING UP IN A SECRET PLACE...



WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN AFTER THEY LEFT.



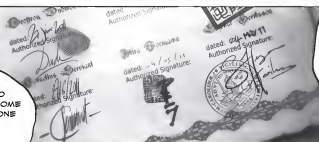
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY LEFT SOMETHING ON THE ALTAR.



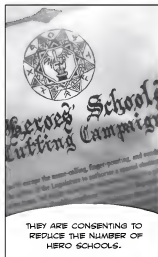
WAIT, IT'S A CONTRACT! THEY WERE SIGNING IT!

WHY DID THEY LEAVE IT HERE THOUGH, ISN'T THAT DUMB?

NOT REALLY, SINCE NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO COME THERE AND NOT EVERYONE HAS SIGNED IT.

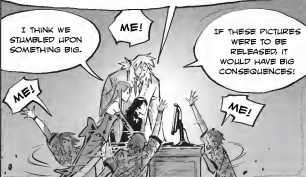


AND LOOK AT THE OTHER NAMES! THEY ARE THE NAMES OF THE BIGGEST UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD: THE TAKESHI'S CASTLE, THE X COLLEGE OF L.A., THE GERMANIC LORELEI, THE SPANISH SANTA RITA, AND A LOT MORE...



THEY ARE CONSENTING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HERO SCHOOLS.

LET'S RECAP: WE JUST DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF A SECRET SOCIETY THAT HAS ITS ORIGINS IN THE FOUNDING MYTHS OF THE BIG INDO-EUROPEAN CULTURES. THIS ORGANIZATION CONTROLS THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS HERO SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD AND JUST VOTED FOR A RADICAL REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS...



I THINK WE STUMBLED UPON SOMETHING BIG.

ME!

IF THESE PICTURES WERE TO BE RELEASED, IT WOULD HAVE BIG CONSEQUENCES!

ME!

YES, AND UNFORTUNATELY, IT WOULDN'T BE VERY GOOD FOR THE UNIVERSITIES. WHAT'S MORE, THESE PICTURES WOULDN'T HOLD IN COURT.



ME!

ME!

WE HAVE TO GO BACK THERE AND FIND THAT CONTRACT.

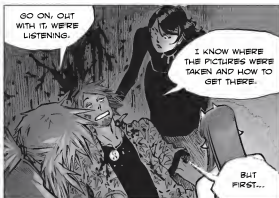
I GNO GNOW DO GET DER...

WHEN IS HE GOING TO STOP?



WAIT, I THINK HE'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING.

GO ON, OUT WITH IT, WE'RE LISTENING.

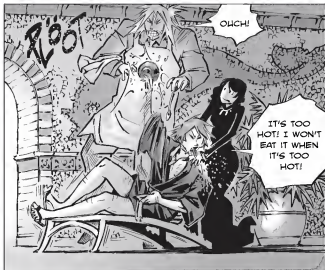


I KNOW WHERE THE PICTURES WERE TAKEN AND HOW TO GET THERE.

BUT FIRST...



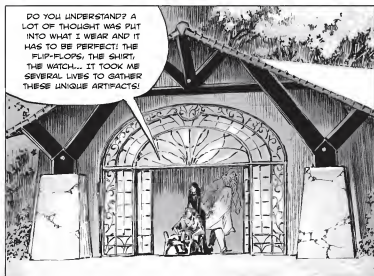
IS THE SOUP TO
YOUR LIKING?



IT'S TOO
HOT! I WON'T
EAT IT WHEN
IT'S TOO
HOT!



GOOD.



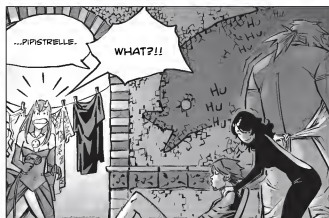
OKAY, IF
IT MAKES
YOU FEEL
BETTER...



LET'S START WITH NAMES. AS YOU BOTH KNOW, YOUR NAMES ARE XIONS MAO AND OMBRE.

AND?

AS FOR OUR HORNED FRIEND, SHE'S NAMED...



...PIPISTRELLE.

WHAT?!!



OH MAN, MY MOUTH FEELS DRY AFTER TALKING SO MUCH...

SLEEP SLEEP SLEEP



BE CAREFUL, DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH OR YOU'LL WANT TO GO...



OH THAT'S ENOUGH! I DIDN'T CHOOSE MY NAME!

I'LL GO TO COURT TO SUE MY STUPID PARENTS!

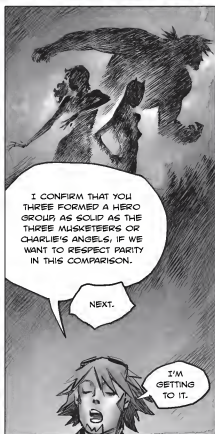
MMM. THAT COCKTAIL IS REALLY SOMETHING.

MWAAAAH!

WHA!

WHERE WAS I AGAIN? AH YES...

TEEN: WHERE THE HELL IS THAT HE'LL WANT TO TAKE A PISS, "MAIRE PIPPI" IN FRENCH, HER NAME IS PIPISTRELLE, YOU GET IT.



I CONFIRM THAT YOU THREE FORMED A HERO GROUP, AS SOLID AS THE THREE MUSKETEERS OR CHARLIE'S ANGELS; IF WE WANT TO RESPECT PARITY IN THIS COMPARISON.

NEXT.

I'M GETTING TO IT.



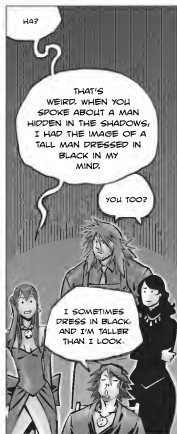
IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS HIDES A MAN.

A MENTOR.

A MASTER HELPING YOU THROUGH THE MOST DIFFICULT MOMENTS. THAT MENTOR...



...IS ME.



HA?

THAT'S WEIRD. WHEN YOU SPOKE ABOUT A MAN HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS, I HAD THE IMAGE OF A TALL MAN DRESSED IN BLACK IN MY MIND.

YOU TOO?

I SOMETIMES DRESS IN BLACK, AND I'M TALLER THAN I LOOK.

BUT LET'S
GO BACK TO TWO
NIGHTS AGO... THE
NIGHT WHEN YOU
MYSTERIOUSLY
DISAPPEARED.



JUST TO GIVE YOU SOME
CONTEXT, WE'VE BEEN TRYING
TO CONTACT THE F.A.E.H.'S DEAN,
GEOFFROY DUDIKOV, FOR
SEVERAL MONTHS NOW.



THE UNIVERSITY'S ARCHIVES
BURNED IN 79. WE NEEDED
DUDIKOV'S TESTIMONY AS WELL
AS COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL
DOCUMENTS TO PROVE THE AGE
OF THE F.A.E.H. UNFORTUNATELY,
THE GUY LIVES LIKE A HERMIT
IN A FORTIFIED BUNKER.



I DEvised AN ATTACK PLAN WORTHY
OF THE BEST STRATEGISTS AND YOU
NEARLY MADE IT TO THE HEART
OF THE FORTRESS.



BUT DUE TO
SOME OF THE
TRAPS BEING
IMPOSSIBLE TO
PASS, WE HAD
TO FALL BACK.

TO GET AROUND THIS, I HAD YOU
INFILTRATE THE THIRD YEAR'S
GRADUATION CEREMONY. DUDIKOV
ALWAYS MAKES AN APPEARANCE
DURING THE CEREMONY. IT WAS OUR
LAST CHANCE TO CATCH HIM BEFORE
THE LAW WAS PASSED.



EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN
UNTIL WE TRIED TO FOLLOW HIM IN A
SECRET PASSAGE HIDDEN IN THE
LOCKER ROOM. WE WERE ATTACKED
THERE AND I HEROICALLY SACRIFICED
MYSELF TO COVER YOU SO YOU COULD
FOLLOW DUDIKOV. I LOST MY WATCH
DURING THE FIGHT.



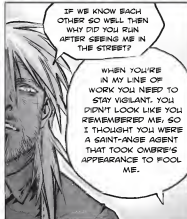
WHAT TIME WAS IT
WHEN WE GOT
SEPARATED?

AFTER MIDNIGHT.
MAYBE 00:15.
I DIDN'T PAY
ATTENTION TO IT.



IF WE KNOW EACH
OTHER SO WELL THEN
WHY DID YOU RUN
AFTER SEEING ME IN
THE STREET?

WHEN YOU'RE
IN MY LINE OF
WORK YOU NEED TO
STAY VIGILANT. YOU
DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU
REMEMBERED ME, SO
I THOUGHT YOU WERE
A SAINT-ANGE AGENT
THAT TOOK OMBRE'S
APPEARANCE TO FOOL
ME.



EVERYTHING FITS.
IT RANG ME TO
ADMIT IT, BUT
IT'S CREDIBLE.

SO WE'LL
HAVE TO TRUST
HIM... FOR
NOW.





2 CAUSE I'M A PICKER
I'M A GRINNER
I'M A LOVER AND
I'M A SINNER
I PLAY MY MUSIC
IN THE SUUUUUUN

#

SO WE MISSED
SOMETHING WHEN
WE CHECKED THE
CONVENTION CENTER'S
LOCKER ROOM?

I'M A JOKER
I'M A SMOKER
I'M A MIDNIGHT TOKER
I SURE DON'T WANT
TO HURT NO ONE
HOOO HOOO0000 HOOO



YES, YOU WENT RIGHT PAST
IT, BUT I KNOW THE MAGIC
WORDS THAT WILL OPEN
THE SECRET PASSAGE!



PIPISTRELLE, DO
YOU HAVE THE
LOCKER KEY?
THE ONE YOU
SWALLOWED?

YES I DO,
BUT CALL ME
THAT AGAIN AND
I'LL PUT IT
IN YOUR...



STOP!

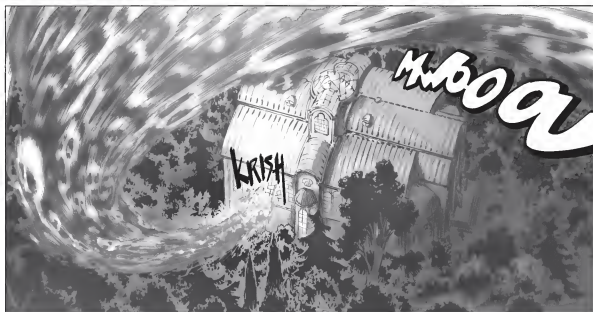
DON'T
MOVE.

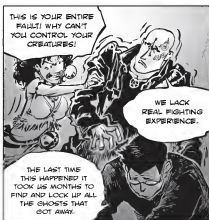
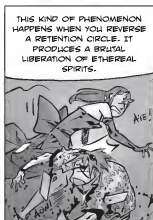
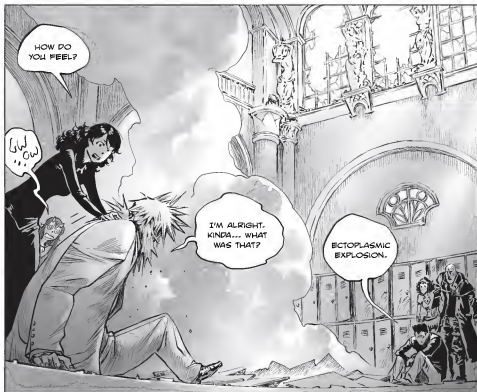


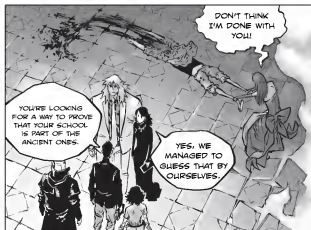
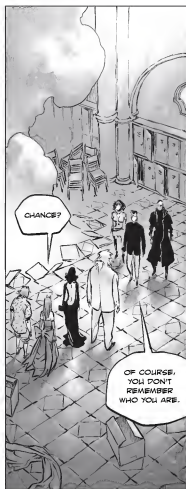
THESE THINGS,
ON THE GROUND...
THEY WEREN'T HERE
WHEN WE LEFT.

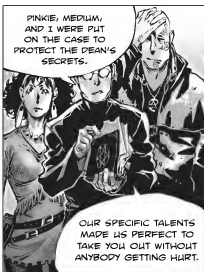






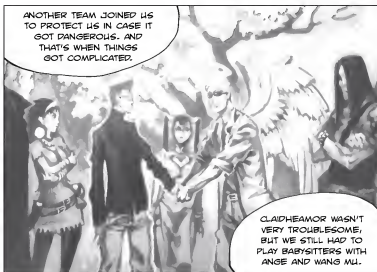






PINKIE, MEDIUM,
AND I WERE PUT
ON THE CASE TO
PROTECT THE DEAN'S
SECRETS.

OUR SPECIFIC TALENTS
MADE US PERFECT TO
TAKE YOU OUT WITHOUT
ANYBODY GETTING HURT.



ANOTHER TEAM JOINED US
TO PROTECT US IN CASE IT
GOT DANGEROUS. AND
THAT'S WHEN THINGS
GOT COMPLICATED.

CLADHEAMOR WASN'T
VERY TROUBLESOME,
BUT WE STILL HAD TO
PLAY BABYSITTERS WITH
ANGE AND WANG MU.



THE MISSION WAS A DISASTER.
IN PART BECAUSE YOU WERE
ALWAYS WELL INFORMED AND
RESPONSIVE ON THE FIELD.
AND THE OTHER TEAM MADE
EVERYTHING MORE DIFFICULT.

BLINDED BY THEIR
VENGEANCE, THEY
MADE EVERY MISSION
FAIL FROM THEIR
HOTHEADEDNESS...

...FORGETTING
YOU HAD
RAZORBACK.
THIS SWORD
PRACTICALLY
MAKES YOU
INVINCIBLE.



TO OVERCOME THIS DIFFICULTY,
WE FOLLOWED OMBRE AND XIONG
MAO'S TRACKS; THE ONES FROM
THE MONTHS PRECEDING THE FIGHT
BETWEEN CHANCE AND ANGE IN THE
OLD CATHEDRAL. ANGE SUSPECTED
THAT YOU HAD FORGED THE SWORD
DURING THIS PERIOD. HE HOPED TO
FIND A WAY TO DESTROY THE SWORD
BY DISCOVERING HOW IT WAS MADE.



IT WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
POSSIBLE WITHOUT
MEDIUM'S
PARTICULAR
FRIENDS.

YOUR TRACKS LED
TO AN ELEVATOR
THAT SEEMED TO
GO VERY DEEP...



...SO MUCH THAT
OUR ECTOPLASMIC
METERS WENT
CRAZY.

THIS CABIN COULD
GO DOWN TO HELL
AND WE ALL KNOW
WHAT COULD COME
OUT OF IT...



WHAT HAPPENS
DOWN THERE
ISN'T OUR
PROBLEM
ANYMORE.



ANGE WENT ONTO A
PATH OF VENGEANCE
UNWORTHY OF A HERO..
WE WON'T FOLLOW HIM
IN HIS PARANOID TRIP.



TO GET BACK TO OUR STORY,
THE FAMOUS NIGHT TWO DAYS
AGO, AT PRECISELY MIDNIGHT,
CHANCE WAS WITH LYNETTE.



WE INTERCEPTED
YOU BEFORE YOU
GAVE THE KEY TO
THE OTHERS.

I TOOK
LYNETTE
HOSTAGE.



TO CUT THE
NEGOTIATIONS
SHORT,
CHANCE
SWALLOWED
THE KEY.



IT WAS THREE VERSUS
ONE, WE HAD YOU.

THAT'S WHEN A MAN
DRESSED IN BLACK
SAVED YOU.



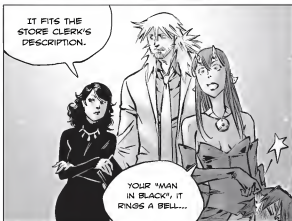
WE GOT
OUR ASSES HANDLED
TO US. WE WOKE UP GAGGED
AND TIED UP. WE ONLY MANAGED
TO GET FREE THE DAY AFTER THAT
AND WE WENT AFTER YOU. YOU
KNOW THE REST.



LYNETTE... SHORT,
WITH BIG GLASSES?

AND
DELICIOUSLY
CHUBBY.

IT FITS THE
STORE CLERK'S
DESCRIPTION.

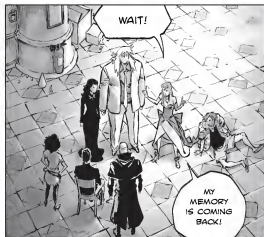


YOUR "MAN
IN BLACK", IT
RINGS A BELL...

TALL, BROWN
HAIR, VERY
PALE, WEARING
A LARGE HAT?



YES,
THAT'S
HIM.



WAIT!

MY
MEMORY
IS COMING
BACK!



THAT
MAN IN
BLACK,
THAT'S...

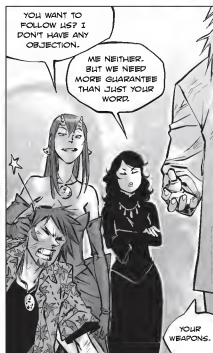
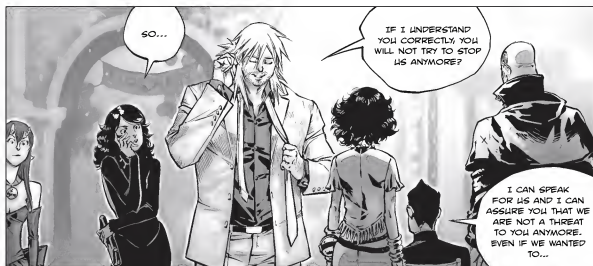
THAT'S...

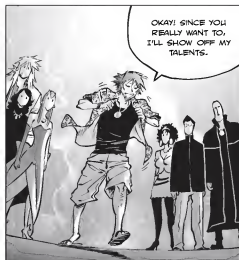


MY
BOYFRIEND!
I'M IN A RELA-
TIONSHIP!!!

AND I
HAVE AN
ENGAGEMENT
RING!!!

SHOW-OFFS.







P



"A giant Lego® is destroying the town. Everyone is panicking. As the protesters cannot contain the creature's savagery, the army finally arrives. The collateral damage is considerable!"

Émile Roger for the *Nouvel Objecteur*



"If he's a man of his word, the Minister of the Interior will resign. Whatever the results against this monster may be, nothing justifies the damage done to national monuments! Instead of using the army, the Minister should have called the few heroes still in the country to establish a crisis cell as soon as possible."

Serge Ferrand, opposition representative

TRANSLATOR/CLEANER/TYSETTER:
ROL

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
AURIUM,
SOCRATES,
AND
OMGWTFBGGPONIES

FOR PROOFREADING/QUALITY CHECKING

